Secondary schools for SCs and STs

1357. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:
SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have plans to set up 200 secondary schools for SC/ST students in districts with a high population of SCs and STs;

(b) whether any survey has been done to determine the selection of such districts;

(c) if so, the names of districts selected in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Bihar;

(d) whether Government will also admit OBC students in such schools; and

(e) if not, reasons for excluding students from OBC communities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (e) There is no such proposal with the Ministry of H.R.D. at present.

Finishing schools in NITs

1358. SHRI K.P.K. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether six institutions wtih the name Finishing Schools are going to be opened in the NITs at Tiruchi, Calicut, Suratkal, Warangal, Durgapur, Jaipur and Kurukshetra from the ensuing academic year;

(b) whether the spirit behind this venture is praiseworthy, the admission policy needs some change; and instead of fixing the aim towards the interest of industry, a social approach may be adopted by giving priority to the students from the rural background; and

(c) whether the time of starting the course will be changed after 6th semester instead of being after 7th semester?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The seven National Institutes of Technology (NITs) at Calicut, Durgapur, Jaipur, Kurukshetra, Surathkal, Tiruchirappalli and Warangal, alongwith the IIT-Roorkee will organize finishing school courses during the period May—July, 2007.

(b) Finishing Schools will enhance the standard of fresh engineering graduates so that they become acceptable to the industry.

The objective of Finishing Schools is to meet the needs of the unemployed and non-employable engineering graduates from various Engineering Colleges and improve their communication as well as Information Technology skills, while brushing up their knowledge of the core courses. After the completion of the course, these students will be more acceptable not only to the industry but to other sectors of the economy as well.

(c) No, Sir. As the theme of Finishing Schools is to enhance the employability of engineering graduates, admission to these courses will be restricted to persons who completed their graduation in engineering upto 2006 and are unemployed.

UGC Schemes for OBC

1359. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that UGC has not created or evolved or announced any funding, scholarship or fellowships for OBC students;

(b) if so, whether Government will give proper guidance and directions to the UGC to move away from a limited approach;

(c) what specific directions will be given to UGC to extend to OBC students as similar grants, funding, discretionary grants being given to other castes and communities; and

(d) the steps proposed to direct UGC to bring about parity of treatment to OBC scholars during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.